

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

January 15th, 2025

AHS Board Ignores Workers

On January 8th, the Alameda Health System Board of Directors met to discuss their financial plans for the year. For the third time, AHS workers and Alameda County residents showed up to speak to the board, again demanding that they develop an ethical investment policy. Currently, AHS workers' retirement funds are invested in weapons manufacturers like Lockheed Martin and L3Harris, using public money to fund violence and genocide in Gaza.

Nurses, physicians, social workers and community members spoke up against this use of their money, emphasizing the absurdity of using our county public health dollars to bomb hospitals on the other side of the world. Over 700 AHS workers have signed a petition demanding that the board develop an ethical investment policy, yet this demand continues to be ignored by the AHS Board of Directors. Despite the board's inaction, AHS workers will not give up this fight. If you have not yet signed the petition, you can read and sign it here:



Bay Area "Sickout" for Palestine

Last Monday, January 6th, healthcare care workers in the Bay Area and across the country called attention to the ongoing genocide in Gaza by calling out sick from work in large numbers--known as a "sickout." The act was organized by a coalition called Doctors Against Genocide, with the intent of showing just how tired healthcare workers are of the continuous attack on Palestinian people and healthcare workers. In Gaza, only 16 out of 36 hospitals are left standing, all of them with less than minimal resources equipped to attend the growing number of victims of Israel's attacks.

The action led to a thousand people rallying in front of San Francisco General Hospital, with one of the banners that read "Our Taxes Turn Hospitals into Mass Graves." The protests also led to a rally at Stanford campus, where healthcare workers set up a pop-up clinic for the treatment of "sickness from genocide".

These actions show how healthcare workers have a stake in opposing this inhumane genocide perpetrated by Israel. We don't need to stand idly by, our collective action to stop this genocide matters.

What's Kaiser Planning?

Once more, Kaiser management is planning changes to our jobs while not asking for anyone's feedback, which negatively impacts our work. For the last year, a threat has been looming on the horizon, and now it is finally taking shape: downsizing, centralization and cross-training of OPEIU Local 29 workers.

What's behind all this fancy terminology? Possibly a nightmare in the making. Could it mean layoffs or not filling new positions for receptionists and other Local 29 workers? New departments being combined? One central check-in zone for all patients?

Over time and with experience, each Local 29 worker deeply learns about their department. This crucial knowledge is what allows us to best assist our patients as they ask questions about their procedures. But management, who can only think of how they can keep reducing staff to increase profits, believes they can just throw some superficial cross-department training at us, and suddenly we'll be able to have deep knowledge about every procedure from any section of the hospital.

This is nuts! Not only does this show how disconnected management is from the ins and outs of how the hospital operates, but also, how dismissive they are of the intricacies of our work and our patients' health!



Kaiser OPEIU Local 29 workers after cross-training?

Join us at our next event to discuss Trump's attacks on immigrants and our response...

Immigrants Are Welcome Here!

Sunday, February 2nd, 4pm
6501 Telegraph Ave, Oakland



 speakoutsocialists.org

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